

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-38 (cancelled)

39. (new) A shoe, in which at least a portion of the upper includes gripping areas resulting from the presence of a coating, said coating providing a dry co-efficient of friction exceeding that of standard athletic leather according to the modified IUP51 test defined herein.
40. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 39, in which said coating comprises a liquid silicone rubber coating.
41. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 39, in which said coating comprises a highly plasticised coating.
42. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 41, in which said coating is based on a PVC homopolymer or PVC/PVA copolymer.
43. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 42, in which there is included a plasticiser from the group comprising: *Dialkyl adipate esters, dialkyl azelates, glycol dibenzoate esters, glycollates such as butyl phthalyl, butyl glycollate, mellitates such as trialkyl trimellitates, a few phenoxy compounds, phosphate esters including triaryl, trialkyl and alkyl-aryl combinations, derivatives of ortho-phthalic acid with emphasis on dialkyl and alkyl benzyl o-phthalates, polyesters and various dibasic acids with glycols (e.g., adipic, azelaic and phthalic acids with various glycols terminated with a monofunctional compound), pentaerythritol derivatives and sulfonamides.*
44. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 43, in which there is included a secondary plasticiser from the group comprising: *aromatic and mixed aromatics aliphatic oils, chlorinated paraffins, poly-alpha methylstyrene derivatives and esters of high molecular weight alcohols and organic acids, which have marginal compatibility with PVC, monomeric esters of straight chain dibasic acids, certain epoxy derivatives including epoxidized soybean oil, epoxidized tall oil and some epoxy resins.*
45. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 43 in which the amount of plasticiser(s) present is 45% or more by weight compared to the polymer or co-polymer.

46. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 43 in which the amount of plasticiser(s) present is 66±4% by weight compared to the polymer or co-polymer.
47. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 43 which includes a mineral stearate dispersed in an epoxidised soya oil.
48. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 43 which includes a polyisobutylene.
49. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 43 which either or both, include or are at least partially coated with a particulate material.
50. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 39 which is at least partially coated with a coating and which either or both includes a particulate material, or has had a particulate material applied.
51. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 50 in which the coating includes either or both an aqueous aliphatic polyurethane dispersion and aqueous aliphatic acrylic dispersion.
52. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 51 which includes a cross-linking agent.
53. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 52 in which the cross-linking agent is an isocyanate.
54. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 50 in which the particulate material includes any one or more of: a mineral, a crumbed rubber, or a synthetic plastic material in a particulate or granular form.
55. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 54 in which the mineral is selected from the group comprising: aluminium oxides, tungsten carbide, silicon carbide, cubic boron nitride, ceramic materials, garnet, a Trizact ® abrasive from 3M, and diamond particulates.
56. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 54 in which the hardness of included plastic particles equals or exceeds a hardness of 75 Shore A.
57. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 54 in which said particulate material includes particles in the size range of 0.5 – 100 microns inclusive.
58. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 41 when a said coating is applied to a leather material.
59. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 58 in which the leather is goat or kangaroo leather.
60. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 41 in which a said coating is applied to a fabric or textile.
61. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 60 in which the fabric or textile is, or includes, a polyamid fibre material.
62. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 41 in which a said coating has been applied in a pattern.

63. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 62 in which the pattern comprises one or more of: logos, advertising material, graphics, text, alphanumeric characters, repetitive patterns or arrangements.
64. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 41 which includes areas comprising different of said coatings.
65. (new) A shoe as claimed in claim 39 which includes an area of the hook and pile material Greptile G200 by 3M.
66. (new) A sports shoe in which at least part of the upper in the toe area possesses a coating of a grip enhancing agent which increases the dry coefficient of friction, when compared to standard athletic leather when measured by a modified IUP51 test as defined herein, said grip enhancing agent being selected from the group comprising: liquid silicone rubbers, PVC polymers with high plasticiser contents, PVC/PVA copolymers with high plasticiser contents, urethane resins with high plasticiser contents, acrylic resins with high plasticiser contents, urethane/acrylic blends or hybrids with high plasticiser contents, particulate materials in combination with previously listed members of this group, and particulate materials in combination with acrylic and/or polyurethane binders.
67. (new) A patch suitable for attachment to a shoe in which at least part of said patch possesses a coating of a grip enhancing agent which increases the dry coefficient of friction, when compared to standard athletic leather when measured by a modified IUP51 test as defined herein, said grip enhancing agent being selected from the group comprising: liquid silicone rubbers, PVC polymers with high plasticiser contents, PVC/PVA copolymers with high plasticiser contents, urethane resins with high plasticiser contents, acrylic resins with high plasticiser contents, urethane/acrylic blends or hybrids with high plasticiser contents, particulate materials in combination with previously listed members of this group, and particulate materials in combination with acrylic and/or polyurethane binders.
68. (new) A patch as claimed in claim 67 in which one or more plasticiser in a grip enhancing agent including a high plasticiser content is selected from the group comprising: *Dialkyl adipate esters, dialkyl azelates, glycol dibenzoate esters, glycollates such as butyl phthalyl, butyl glycollate, mellitates such as trialkyl trimellitates, a few phenoxy compounds, phosphate esters including triaryl, trialkyl and alkyl-aryl combinations, derivatives of ortho-phthalic acid with emphasis on dialkyl and alkyl benzyl o-phthalates, polyesters and various dibasic acids with glycols (e.g., adipic, azelaic and phthalic acids with various glycols terminated with a monofunctional compound), pentaerythritol derivatives and sulfonamides.*
69. (new) A patch as claimed in claim 67 which has a self-adhesive layer on one side for adhesion to the upper of a shoe.

70. (new) A material suitable for the manufacture of at least part of the upper of a shoe in which said material possesses a coating of a grip enhancing agent which increases the dry coefficient of friction, when compared to standard athletic leather when measured by a modified IUP51 test as defined herein, said grip enhancing agent being selected from the group comprising: liquid silicone rubbers, PVC polymers with high plasticiser contents, PVC/PVA copolymers with high plasticiser contents, urethane resins with high plasticiser contents, acrylic resins with high plasticiser contents, urethane/acrylic blends or hybrids with high plasticiser contents, particulate materials in combination with previously listed members of this group, and particulate materials in combination with acrylic and/or polyurethane binders.
71. (new) A material as claimed in claim 70 in which one or more plasticiser in a grip enhancing agent including a high plasticiser content is selected from the group comprising: *Dialkyl adipate esters, dialkyl azelates, glycol dibenzoate esters, glycollates such as butyl phthalyl, butyl glycollate, mellitates such as trialkyl trimellitates, a few phenoxy compounds, phosphate esters including triaryl, trialkyl and alkyl-aryl combinations, derivatives of ortho-phthalic acid with emphasis on dialkyl and alkyl benzyl o-phthalates, polyesters and various dibasic acids with glycols (e.g., adipic, azelaic and phthalic acids with various glycols terminated with a monofunctional compound), pentaerythritol derivatives and sulfonamides.*